

April 2016

## [REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS]



### State Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2017

At the end of April, the House of Representatives will debate the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2017. I have worked with other legislators and advocates to determine the most important budgetary priorities for seniors. These are the priorities I will fight for:

**'Local Aid to Councils on Aging:** Local Councils on Aging are the first stop on the elder care continuum and provide invaluable services and resources to the seniors in our communities. As Co-Chair of the Elder Caucus, I am seeking an additional \$1 per senior in FY17; which will increase the formula from \$9 per senior to \$10 per senior by a part of our plan to reach \$12 per senior by FY20.

**'Home Health Care Services:** Massachusetts remains one of only five states without state oversight rules and standards for home health care agencies. I am seeking to create a special commission of state legislators, state health officials and home health care leaders to make recommendations on state oversight and payment for medical in-home care services. The commission will analyze payment rates and methods, licensure, and the current number of home health agencies operating in the Commonwealth.

**'Bed Holds:** I will also file a budget amendment related to 10 day bed holds in nursing homes. When a nursing facility resident, who receives MassHealth benefits, enters a hospital, the division will pay to preserve his or her bed in the nursing home facility for a period of up to and including 10 days. MassHealth recipients will also be able to keep their bed in the nursing facility if they leave for a non-medical reason for up to and including 15 days.

**'Public Libraries:** As Co-Chair of the Library Caucus, I am seeking to restore funding for our public libraries. Libraries use state aid funds to meet the needs of local residents by keeping libraries open, purchasing computers and running homework centers and job-search workshops. The Library Caucus has also been able to expand library access for the elderly and people with disabilities. Some of these great programs include the Perkins Library. Through the Perkins School for the Blind, seniors can access large print books, books in Braille, and special listening devices to listen to books, newspapers and periodicals. Book mobiles deliver books to those confined in their homes and can also provide closed circuit televisions for magnified reading. For more information about the Perkins Library, please contact Karen in my office at 617-722-2130.

**'Maynard Senior Van Program:** I am seeking funds for expanding use of Maynard & Acton's Senior Van Program. This funding will assist with the purchase of two additional vans and associated costs. Expanded van service will allow more seniors access to medical appointments and provide an Acton Commuter Rail Shuttle that will encourage reverse commuting, reduce traffic congestion and spur economic development in our region.

### Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- **Bolton Office Hours** will be held on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Bolton Public Library, 738 Main Street, Bolton.
- **Hudson Office Hours** will be held on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 p.m. at the Hudson Public Library, 3 Washington Street, Hudson.

Please bring any questions, ideas or concerns you may have. If you are unable to attend office hours and have an issue or concern, please call the State House at (617) 722-2130 to schedule an appointment with me.

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow  
State House, Room 130, Boston, MA, 02133 | (617) 722-2130 | [Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov](mailto:Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov)  
District Office: Maynard Town Hall, 195 Main Street, Maynard, MA 01754 | (978) 897-1333